



Florida House of Representatives

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HOUSE PASSES MEASURE AMENDING MEMBERSHIP OF MEDICAID LOW-INCOME POOL COUNCIL

~Bill protects Florida's limited funds from the influence of Tallahassee insiders ~

The Florida House of Representatives today unanimously passed House Bill (HB) 285 by Representative Jimmy Patronis (R – Panama City). HB 285 alters the membership of the Low Income Pool (LIP) Council by prohibiting lobbyists who are not employed full time by a public entity from serving on the Council and increases the membership of the Council from 17 to 24 members.

“This bill ensures that Tallahassee insiders no longer recommend how Florida’s limited LIP and disproportionate share funds are apportioned among health care providers,” said Representative Patronis. “Floridians deserve to know that the Legislature is receiving unbiased information about the best way to use taxpayers’ dollars.”

The LIP provides direct payments and distributions to hospitals and other health care providers in Florida for care provided to uninsured Floridians. It was created in 2005 when the Legislature authorized the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) to apply for a Medicaid reform waiver contingent on the ability of the state to maintain supplemental payments to hospitals. Florida law required AHCA to establish a LIP Council to provide advice and recommendations to AHCA and the Legislature regarding the distribution of funds each year. Current law does not prohibit lobbyists, including those who lobby on behalf of health care providers receiving LIP funding, from serving on the Council.

An identical bill, Senate Bill 556, is awaiting hearing by the Senate.

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